

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOR AMBASSADOR SHERER

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 263212 ACTION SENT TO PRAGUE

SECSTATE DATED 11/29/74;

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 263212

E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, CZ, US

SUBJEC: MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY FOREIGN MTNISTER RUZEK

1. CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR SPACIL CALLED ON ACTING SECRETARY NOVEMBER 27 TO DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY MINISTER MILOSLAV RUZEK: QUOTE: PRAGUE, NOVEMBER 11, 1974
DEAR SIR,

BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ING. BOHUSLAV CHNOUPEK ENTRUSTED ME WITH CONVEYING TO YOU HIS SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR LETTER OF OCTOBER 29, 1974. MINISTER CHNOUPEK SHARES THE REGRETS OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MR. KISSINGER THAT THEY COULD NOT MEET AND HAVE THUS THE POSSIBILITY OF EXCHANGING VIEWS ON THE FURTHER PROSPECTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAK-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND ON OTHER QUESTIONS THAT ARE OF
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INTEREST TO BOTH SIDES.

WE ALSO NOTED WITH REGRET THAT FOR THE TIME BEING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DOES NOT DEEM IT POSSIBLE TO APPROACH THE SIGNING OF THE FINANCIAL AND CLAIMS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT INITIALLED ON JULY 5, 1974. AS WAS STATED CON- CURRENTLY BY BOTH PARTIES ON THE OCCASION OF THE INITIAL- ING OF THE AGREEMENT, ITS SIGNING WAS TO SPELL THE BEGIN- NING OF A NEW STAGE IN THE NORMALIZATION AND A FURTHER POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAK-AMERICAN CONTACTS IN ALL SPHERES.

ON BEHALF OF MINISTER CHNOUPEK I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THE CONVICTION THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL AT AN EARLY TIME FIND SUITABLE WAYS AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING THE INITIALLED AGREEMENT, SINCE FURTHER DELAYS AND COMPLICA- TIONS COULD NOT BUT AFFECT ALSO THE ATTITUDES ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTION OF HOW TO PROCEED IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

WITH BEST REGARDS, SINCERELY, /S/ M. RUZEK UNQUOTE

2. WITH RESPECT TO TRADE BILL, ACTING SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT IT HAD BEEN REPORTED OUT OF SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE WITH LONG/GRAVEL AMENDMENT. WE ARE, HOWEVER, HOPEFUL THAT AMENDMENT WILL BE DROPPED IN CONFERENCE. HOUSE STAFFERS HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT THEY WILL PRESS TO HAVE AMENDMENT ELIMINATED IN CONFERENCE. CONGRESS IS AWARE OF DEPARTMENT'S OPPOSITION TO AMENDMENT.

3. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE THEN OUTLINED FOLLOWING TIMETABLE FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON TRADE BILL: DECEMBER 3: SECRETARY TESTIFIES BEFORE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON TITLE IV; DECEMBER 5 - FLOOR DEBATE BEGINS; DECEMBER 9 - FLOOR DEBATE HOPEFULLY CONCLUDED. HOUSE/ SENATE CONFERENCE WILL FOLLOW THEREAFTER.

4. SPACIL THANKED ACTING SECRETARY FOR HIS PERSONAL IN- VOLVEMENT IN CLAIMS MATTER. HE THEN REITERATED POINT MADE IN RUZEK LETTER THAT PASSAGE OF AMENDMENT WOULD AFFECT CZECHOSLOVAK ATTITUDES TOWARD U.S. HE ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN THE EVENT THAT CONGRESS DOES NOT TAKE ACTION ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRADE BILL THIS SESSION.

5. ACTING SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT DEPARTMENT WAS COM- MITTED TO TAKE NO ACTION TO CONCLUDE THE CLAIMS AGREEMENT UNTIL CONGRESS HAS COMPLETED CONSIDERATION OF THE TRADE BILL. IF THERE IS NO TRADE BILL, WE WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO REVIEW CZECH CLAIMS MATTER WITH CONGRESS BEFORE PRO-

CEEDING FURTHER.

6. ARMITAGE MENTIONED THAT A PROMINENT NEW YORK LAWYER WHO REPRESENTS SEVERAL SUBSTANTIAL CLAIMANTS WHO FAVOR CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT AS NEGOTIATED RECENTLY CAME IN TO SEE HIM. THE LAWYER APPARENTLY INTENDS TO MAKE HIS AND HIS CLIENTS' VIEWS KNOWN ON THE HILL. ACTING SECRETARY UNDERSCORED IMPORTANCE OF GETTING OTHER CLAIMANTS INTERESTED IN WHAT HAPPENS IN CONGRESS.

7. SPACIL SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT RUMORS WERE CIRCU-

LATING ON HILL THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS WERE WILLING TO RENEGOTIATE OR MAKE ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS. HE FIRMLY DENIED THAT EXBASSY OFFICIALS WERE SOURCE OF SUCH RUMORS. HE THEN ASKED WHETHER SECRETARY INTENDED TO RAISE CZECH CLAIMS PROBLEM DURING HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE FINANCE COMMITTEE. ACTING SECRETARY REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT YET SEEN SECRETARY'S STATEMENT BUT WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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